

THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS

1. In a device for solid phase micro-extraction, the improvement comprising:
a porous sheath,
said porous sheath containing active extraction media for carrying a
solid phase micro-extraction process.
2. The improvement of Claim 1, wherein said porous sheath comprises a tube
adapted to be connected to a syringe.
3. The improvement of Claim 2, wherein said tube is provided with perforations
along at least a section of length of said tube.
4. The improvement of Claim 3, wherein said perforations are located along
substantially an entire length of said tube.
5. The improvement of Claim 2, wherein said tube includes an end section
selected from the group consisting of a closed end section and an open end section.
6. The improvement of Claim 5, wherein said tube includes an end section
selected from the group consisting of a flat end section and a pointed end section.
7. The improvement of Claim 2, wherein said tube includes an end section
selected from the group consisting of a flat end section and a pointed end section.
8. The improvement of Claim 3, wherein said perforations have a configuration,
selected from the group consisting of circular and elongated.

9. The improvement of Claim 2, wherein said tube includes a section configured to form a seal when said tube is inserted through a septum.
10. A porous protective sheath for solid phase micro-extraction, comprising:
a porous tube,
said porous tube having an end section selected from the group consisting of a closed section and an open end section,
said porous tube being provided with at least a section along a length thereof having perforations,
said porous tube containing an active extraction media for carrying out solid phase micro-extraction.
11. The sheath of Claim 10, wherein said perforations are located along a substantial length of said tube.
12. The sheath of Claim 10, wherein said end section has a configuration selected from the group consisting of flat and pointed end sections.
13. The sheath of Claim 10, wherein said perforations have a configuration selected from the groups consisting of circular and non-circular.
14. The sheath of Claim 10, wherein said tube is constructed from materials selected from the group consisting of metals and metal alloys.
15. The sheath of Claim 10, where said tube additionally includes a section configured top form a seal with an object through which said tube extends.

16. The sheath of Claim 10, in combination with an apparatus constructed such that said tube can be retracted into or extended from said apparatus.

17. The sheath of Claim 10, wherein said tube is constructed of material having a strength sufficient to carry out a septum piercing operation with damage to said tube.